



OFFICE OF THE UNDER SECRETARY OF DEFENSE

2000 DEFENSE PENTAGON
WASHINGTON, DC 20301-2000

POLICY

APR 18 2014

The Honorable Mark S. Kirk
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Kirk:

On behalf of President Obama, I am responding to your letter of March 26, 2014 regarding the sharing of sensitive missile technology with Russia.

Following Russia's illegal incursion into Ukraine, we have suspended our military-to-military dialogue and engagements related to missile defense. No Russian officials are being granted access to U.S. or NATO missile defense facilities. The Obama Administration has provided repeated assurances to Congress that it will not provide interceptor telemetry or hit-to-kill technology to Russia. We have not shared classified technical information about the Standard Missile 3, such as velocity at burnout, with Russia and have no intention to do so in the future.

The United States will share classified information only when senior leaders decide it is in our national security interests to do so. Sharing classified information with another country or organization is governed by a National Disclosure Policy Executive Order and implementing instructions, and any decision to share classified information is in accordance with this process.

This Administration, in keeping with previous administrations, has sought cooperation with Russia on missile defense. Genuine missile defense cooperation with Russia has the potential to strengthen the defensive capabilities of the United States and NATO against the ballistic missile threat from states such as Iran and Syria. Cooperation would also send a powerful signal to potential adversaries that ballistic missile threats will be ineffective as a tool of coercion.

The United States has pursued missile defense cooperation with Russia while always making clear that we will not accept constraints on our missile defense systems, that we will continue to implement our plans for missile defense in Europe, and that NATO alone will be responsible for the ballistic missile defense of NATO territory.

A similar letter has been sent to the other signatories of your letter.

Sincerely,

Michael D. Lumpkin
Assistant Secretary of Defense
(Special Operations & Low Intensity Conflict)
Performing the Duties of the Under Secretary
of Defense (Policy)

